(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that contribution of information technology industry in GDP is estimated to be upto seven percent in the coming years; and

(c) if so, by when this percentage of contribution is estimated to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The NASSCOM McKinsey Report 2002 was released in June, 2002.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. It is estimated that by the year 2008, Indian IT software and services industry will account for 7% of India's GDP.

Laying of optical fibres

1646. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per Government's direction and policy all the State Governments are implementing the scheme for laying of optical fibres in their respective State;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government of Tamil Nadu is not coperating with private companies who are digging/laying optical fibres there;

(c) if so, the reasons for not granting "Right of Way Permission" by the Central/State Government; and

(d) whether Government would issue suitable directions to the State Government in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The State Governments are free to formulate their own guidelines and policies for granting 'Right of Way Permission' to the various utility agencies including licensed telecom service providers.

(b) No such case has come to notice so far.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) Model Guidelines on the subject have already been provided to all State Governments for their reference.

Appointment of officials in VSNL

1647. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have appointed some tainted officials as Directors on the Board of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) against whom CBI/CVC inquiries are pending;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether clearance of the CBI/CVC was obtained prior to the appointment of these officials as Directors on the Board of VSNL; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor, and whether Government would rescind the appointment orders of these tainted officials and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) No prior clearance of CBI/CVC is necessary for appointment of ex-officio nominee Directors of the Government.

Telephone Connections in Varanasi

1648. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV:
SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: